

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 03384 151257Z

62

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 SSC-01 IO-10 OMB-01 EB-07 /091 W

----- 033952

R 151026Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3843

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 3384

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, LA

SUBJ: CABINET MEETING DEALS WITH VIENTIANE SIDE RESIGNATIONS,  
DEMONSTRATIONS IN SAVANNAKHET

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 15 GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN OUDAY  
SOUVANNAVONG STATED THAT PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA  
PRESIDED OVER CABINET MEETING MAY 14. IT ADDRESSED  
FOLLOWING TOPICS:

2. RESIGNATIONS -- CABINET ACCEPTED RESIGNATIONS OF  
FINANCE MINISTER NGON SANANIKONE, DEFENSE MINISTER  
SISOUK NA CHAMPASSAK, DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER  
HOUMPHANH SAIGNASITH AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TIANETHONE  
CHANTHARASY. IT ALSO AGREED TO "DEFINITIVE" RESIGNATION OF  
GENERALS VANG PAO AND OUDONE SANANIKONE, RESPECTIVELY MR II COM-  
MANDER AND DIRECTOR GENERAL AT DEFENSE MINISTRY, AS WELL  
AS RESIGNATIONS OF FOLLOWING GENERALS FROM THEIR POSTS:

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 03384 151257Z

LAO MILITARY ACADEMY DIRECTOR KHAMSY SANANIKONE, DCS

FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE ETAM AND MR-V COMMANDER THONGLITH CHOKBENGBOUN. (LAO PRESSE ADDED KHAMHOU BOUSSARATH TO THE LIST.) CABINET FURTHER DECIDED THAT PRIME MINISTER SHOULD TAKE CHARGE OF VACANT PORTFOLIOS; PM REPORTEDLY HOPES TO SUBMIT NAMES OF NEW MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS AT NEXT CABINET MEETING; THEY WILL BE SELECTED FROM VIENTIANE SIDE. AS FOR THE GENERALS, OUDAY SAID DEFENSE MINISTRY IS LOOKING FOR REPLACEMENTS AND, ACCORDING TO LAO PRESSE, WILL SUBMIT A LIST AT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING.

3. SITUATION IN MR-II -- SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT CHAO MANIVONG KINDAVONG, MR-II COMMANDER, ASSUMED COMMAND MAY 14 IN PRESENCE OF TOUBY LY FOUNG, DEPUTY PTT MINISTER. THERE WAS NO INDICATION AS TO WHERE CEREMONY TOOK PLACE.

4. DEMONSTRATION IN SAVANNAKHET -- CABINET ORDERED COLONEL SOMBOUN VONGPRACHANH VIENTIANE SIDE MEMBER OF JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT, TO JOIN HIS PATHET LAO COUNTERPART, COLONEL CHENG, IN SAVANNAKHET TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE DEMONSTRATORS THERE.

5. PROVINCIAL STAFFS IN EXILE TO BE ABOLISHED -- CABINET DECIDED THAT, SINCE MAJORITY OF REFUGEES HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES, PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFS IN EXILE OF FOLLOWING PROVINCES ARE ABOLISHED: PHONG SALY, SAM NEUA, XIENG KHOUANG, SARAVANE AND ATTOPEU.

6. ECONOMIC PROBLEMS -- CONSUMER GOODS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES WILL BE SENT TO PROVINCES FOR SALE AT PRICES PREVAILING IN VIENTIANE. COST OF TRANSPORTATION WILL BE BORNE BY GOVERNMENT.

7. OUDAY CLOSED HIS BRIEFING BY URGING PRESS CORPS TO REPORT SITUATION IN LAOS ACCURATELY IN ORDER TO HELP PGNU TO PROTECT PEACE, NEUTRALITY, ETC.

8. DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD OUDAY SAID THAT QUESTION OF RELEASE OF THREE AMERICAN HOSTAGES TAKEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 VIENTI 03384 151257Z

IN SAVANNAKHET WOULD BE ADDRESSED BY JCCIA REPS SENT THERE BY CABINET. HE EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE ENTIRE MATTER. OUDAY DISCUSSED "AT LENGTH" ISSUE OF STRIPPING PRINCE BOUN OUM OF HIS ROYAL PREROGATIVES, BUT SUBJECT NEEDS TO BE STUDIED FURTHER. CABINET WILL DISCUSS ISSUE AGAIN NEXT WEEK. OUDAY ALSO SAID THAT NO DECISION WAS MADE CONCERNING CONTINUATION OF USAID IN LAOS AND THAT THUS USAID CAN CONTINUE TO OPERATE AS IN PAST

UNTIL NEW AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IS REACHED.  
CHAPMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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